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Coor unveils center for state's future
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Lattie Coor, former president of Arizona
State University, and Sybil Francis, a public
policy expert and wife of current ASU Pres-
ident Michael Crow, formed thelCenter for the Future of Arizona.
The center, which signed a five-year lease for space at ASU's downtown Phoenix cam-pus, will be examining issues that will lead to improving the quality of life in Arizona. They then will devise an action-oriented agenda, according to Coor, who will serve as the center's chief executive.
Francis, who has worked in the U.S. House of Representatives and later in the White House Office of Science and Tech-nology, will serve as executive director. Calling the center a "do tank," as opposed to a "think tank," Coor said they have re-

ceived an initial $200,000
in funding each year for
the next five years from
local businessmen Donald
Budinger and Jerry Bis-
grove. He said they are
looking for several other
sponsors. The advisory
board includes Coor, Na-
dine Mathis Basha, Jose
Cardenas, George Dean
and Jack Pfister.
At the top of the to-do list is getting more accurate data on the state's high school dropout rate — currently pegged at 33 per-cent and among the highest in the nation — and then formulating a plan to address the issue. Coor said they plan to have definitive numbers by September.
"We want to affiliate with anyone and ev-

eryone who will help," said Coor, emphasiz-ing they have no intention of duplicating current efforts.
He said they will be working with existing groups such as Greater Phoenix Leadership and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council to help Arizona evolve into a competitive, knowledge-based economy, with an en-hanced quality of life/
Other issues in the forefront include cre-ating an environment with ample opportu-nities and the ability to attract and retain the best creative talent, creating new lead-ership models and developing a system of investment that supports these goals.

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Center for the Future of Arizona:

480-727-5005; www.arizonafuture.org